



TARGET ACCESS



The above mural was unveiled in St. Louis, Missouri on October 22, 2003.

Students Paint USDA Rock 'N Roll Wheelchair

TARGET Access

Issue # 6

November 2003

On October 22, the USDA Midwest TARGET Center in St. Louis, Missouri accepted the donation of a mural painted by several talented children with disabilities. The mural, a gift to the Secretary of Agriculture in honor of USDA's commitment to the considerations of people with disabilities, was painted by students of the Logos School in St. Louis as facilitated by VSA Arts of Missouri.

The ceremony in St. Louis was timed to occur during National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The mural was accepted on behalf of USDA by Rural

Development's Deputy Chief Information Officer John Distler, and its Director of Legislative and Public Affairs Allan Johnson. Also in attendance at the ribbon cutting ceremony were speakers from the office of Senators Christopher Bond and Jim Talent, speakers for representatives Richard Gephardt and Lacy Clay, and Department of Defense's CAP Program director Dinah Cohen.

USDA TARGET Center Director Bruce McFarlane arranged for the shipment of the 10' x 12' mural to USDA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., and will be

continued on inside cover...

“Rock ‘N Roll Painting”...continued

displayed temporarily until a permanent location is found. Visit the TARGET web site for updates on the mural’s location.

“Year after year we and the community put our focus on the limitations imposed by disabilities,” stated Betty Gahn, USDA Midwest TARGET Center Director. “It was extremely important to me this year to focus on abilities. I was [very pleased when] VSA Arts came through.”

VSA Arts (formerly Very Special Arts) is a well-known international non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the creative power in people with disabilities. VSA Arts of Missouri provides free programs in creative writing, dance, drama, music, and visual arts that foster individual expression and help participants develop independence, learning skills, and increased self-esteem.

In this particular case, VSA worked with children from the Logos School, a therapeutic middle and high school in St. Louis. The school assists adolescents with conditions such as attention deficit disorder, depression, learning disabilities, obsessive compulsive disorder, Autism, Bipolar Disorder, and other difficulties which may prevent them from succeeding academically and emotionally.

“To paraphrase a statement made by Senator Bond”, Gahn continued, “The mural presented to USDA is a reflection of who these individuals are and is a strong testament of their desire to participate in life to the best of their ability. Truly each piece of art work told an individual story without a word being said. I can only say thank you to all who provided the remarkable pieces of art for our pleasure.”



“The mural presented to USDA is a reflection of who these individuals are...[and] their desire to participate in life to the best of their ability.”

– U.S. Senator Bond



TARGET FOCUS

USDA employees are eager to learn about Being Comfortable At Work.

Despite being primarily known as a disability resource center, the USDA TARGET Center is attracting more and more USDA employees looking for information on office ergonomics. Every month, curious customers fill our Being Comfortable At Work training sessions, eager to learn how to make simple adjustments to their workstation to alleviate discomfort and hopefully prevent a repetitive strain injury, such as Carpal Tunnel Syndrome.

“We’ve had over 150 people attend since we began offering the session over one year ago,” said Michelle McGrath, the TARGET staff member who handles most of the ergonomic requests and leads the session. **“People have told me how they lived with aches and pains for years and thought that just came with working on the computer.”**

In addition to a general ergonomics overview, attendees are given the opportunity to try various ergonomic devices and chairs, as well as schedule an assessment. Assessments are provided to all USDA

employees at no charge, and most of our ergonomic equipment is available for loan. Employees who then would like to purchase the borrowed item are given the necessary information so that their agency may order the item.

USDA employees who cannot make it down to the TARGET Center for the monthly one-hour sessions, can call 202-720-2600 (v/tty) to inquire about TARGET staff coming to them for training and assessments.

At the USDA TARGET Center we are thrilled with the success of the Being Comfortable At Work sessions because the sessions draw in customers that otherwise would not have visited the center. While TARGET is very proud of our achievements in helping employees who are disabled, we are glad that people are realizing that the TARGET Center is here to help them.

See the back of this newsletter for more information on attending Being Comfortable At Work.



The USDA TARGET Center maintains several list-servs to keep our customers informed about TARGET and disability-related events. These events include two monthly demonstrations of new technology, quarterly open houses, and various other special events that may not be scheduled at press time of this publication. Many of these list-servs are generated from customer lists based on responses to surveys. If you would like to be included in and/or removed from any of the following specific list-servs please e-mail Paul.Lloyd@usda.gov with your name and e-mail address, along with the list-serv topic(s) from the following list:

Section 508
Adobe PDF
Ergonomics
Low Vision
Blind
Deaf/Hard of Hearing
Mobility
General TARGET



USDA TARGET Center Calendar of Events

- **November 4 & 5**
IDEAS 2003: Breakthroughs in Access
Location: Washington Convention Center
www.section508.gov/IDEAS
- **November 6**
Office Ergonomics Presentation
Location: APHIS Riverdale Training Rooms
Contact: Sheila Hanz, 202-690-6049
- **November 12**
Carpal Tunnel Syndrome and Ergonomics
from 11:30 am - 1 pm
Location: Jefferson Auditorium, USDA
*Presented by The Medical Services Health Unit
and The Sports Spine and Rehabilitation Center*
- **November 20 & December 18**
from 12 pm - 1 pm
Don't forget! The TARGET Center presents
Being Comfortable At Work on the last
Thursday of every month. November and
December have holidays on the scheduled days,
so please remember the earlier dates above.
Please call to reserve a spot today!

*Please visit our website
for a complete listing of disability related events.*

*The electronic version of this publication,
also available on our website,
can be read by a screen reader
and adjusted in Acrobat Reader for low-vision users.*

*If you need the print publication in an
alternative format such as Braille or large print,
please contact the TARGET Center.*



Helping People. It's What We Do.

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